

Southwest Collaborative Modeling Project

Communication Plan

To help appropriately capture the opportunity established in Public Law 108-451 regarding New Mexico's rights in the Gila Basin, Sandia National Labs, working with the Interstate Stream Commission and the Southwest Water Planning Group has convened a collaborative modeling team. Collaborative modeling is a relatively new approach to addressing natural resource management issues. The primary goal is to build a system dynamics model to allow model users to better understand the complexity in the water system and to ask "what if" questions about various approaches to managing those resources.

This team is comprised of representatives from the four southwest New Mexico counties as well as state and federal agencies with responsibility for deciding how to apply the settlement. While the modeling team has the responsibility for developing the model, information about the process and the product will be made available to others through a variety of channels.

Communication Plan Elements

Team member communication

As the project Ground Rules indicate, team members need to communicate frequently with their larger constituencies to explain the project and to obtain feedback.

Website

The Sandia-sponsored website is open to anyone. The site will include notes from all meetings; a list of decisions reached relevant to the process and product; a list of data sources utilized in building the model. Additionally, the website will provide more detailed information about collaborative modeling and the system dynamics approach being employed in this project

Briefings to the Southwest Water Planning Group

Throughout the year the team will give periodic formal presentations to the Planning Group. These meetings, and hence the briefings, will be open to the public and will be widely publicized.

Outside Resources

Throughout the project the team will undoubtedly have questions that they cannot answer. The Sandia modelers will consult as needed with other agencies and organizations that may have data or information pertinent to the model.